THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The joint meeting of Permanent Indus Commission was held from May 28 to June 1, 2002 in New Delhi.

(b) Apart from the regular exchange of information as required under the treaty, the important issues that were discussed by the commission included issues pertaining to the transmission of flood data to Pakistan and the design of the Baglihar hydro-electric plant.

(c) and (d) There have been suggestions including in the Press that India should consider abrogating the Indus Waters Treaty in view of Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism directed against India in violation of international law and bilateral agreements. Government have taken appropriate diplomatic and other measures to effectively defeat the menace of cross border terrorism. Pakistan has now made a commitment to stop cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, not to allow the territory of Pakistan to be used for terrorism anywhere in the world, or any organisation in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir.

Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty

231. DR. KARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty signed between the U.S. and Russia to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and

(b) if so, the terms of the treaty and Government's assessment about its effectiveness to prevent such proliferation and eliminating the risk to global peace and security ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. President Putin and President Bush concluded the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty and the

Declaration of New Strategic Relations in Moscow on 24 May, 2002.

(b) Under the Treaty, Russia and the US have agreed to reduce and limit their strategic nuclear warheads to aggregate numbers not exceeding 1700—2200 for either side by 31 December, 2012. India has assessed these deep cuts in nuclear weapons' stockpiles as a major step in the direction of nuclear disarmament and as a signal contribution to the elimination of nuclear weapons and genuine non-proliferation. India expects that the establishment of new strategic relationship between Russia and the United States would pave the way for the creation of enduring structures of cooperative international security and global strategic stability.

Outcome of CICA Summit

232. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) :

DR. AKHILESH DAS :

DR. KARAN SINGH :

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister attended the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in the beginning of June this year;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions/outcome thereof alongwith decisions taken therein for establishing peace and confidence building in Asia;

(c) whether any talks were held between Indian and Pakistani representatives on the sidelines of the said Conference to defuse tension between India and Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the talks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. In the course of his visit to Kazakhstan from 2—5 June, PM took part in the Summit of the Heads of State